

Lesson 12

Key Words		
assent	presentiment	tactile
contiguous	sensual	tangent
dissent	sensuous	tangible
	sentinel	

SENTIO, SENTIRE, SENSI, SENSUM

<L. "to feel with the senses"

Familiar Words

consent
resent
scent
sensation
sensitive
sensor
sentence
sentry

Challenge Words

sententious
sensate

1. assent (ə sɛnt') [as = ad <L. "to"]

intr. v. To consent; to express agreement (used with to).

Recognizing the need to build new schools, the community **assented** to the higher property tax.

n. Agreement; consent.

Don't plan our summer vacation until you have the **assent** of the whole family.

Antonym: **dissent**

2. dissent (dī sɛnt') [dis <L. "apart"]

intr. v. To have or express a different opinion.

Because they **dissented** from the established Church of England, the Puritans experienced persecution.

n. Disagreement.

A dictatorship seldom allows **dissent** from its policies to appear in the press.

dissension, *n.*; **dissenter**, *n.*; **dissenting**, *adj.*

Antonym: **assent**

3. presentiment (prī zɛn'tə mɛnt)

[pre = prae <L. "before," "in front of"]

n. A sense of something about to happen.

Because I had a **presentiment** that you would call tonight, I knew it was you when the phone rang.

4. sensual (sɛn'shōō əl)

adj. 1. Physical; voluptuous; gratifying to the body.

Many consider hot tubs a **sensual** delight.

2. Indulging in any physical appetite, especially sexual, or showing that one does this.

John Calvin, a Protestant theologian, considered art and music too **sensual** to be allowed in church.

sensualism, *n.*; **sensualist**, *n.*; **sensuality**, *n.*; **sensualize**, *v.*;
sensually, *adv.*

5. **sensuous** (sɛn'shoo əs)
adj. Appealing to the senses, especially aesthetically.

The garden offered much **sensuous** variety of sights, sounds, and smells.

sensuousness, *n.*



NOTA BENE: Although the definitions of *sensuous* and *sensual* are very similar, the two words have different connotations, or suggested meaning. While both words refer to sensation generally, *sensual* is also used to describe specifically sexual sensations. These sentences illustrate that distinction:

- Combining music, costumes, scenery, and movement, a ballet provides many different *sensuous* experiences.
- The purpose of a strip tease is not so much aesthetic as *sensual*.

6. **sentinel** (sɛnt'an əl)

n. A sentry; one who keeps watch.

A **sentinel** was posted at every gate of the besieged city.

Familiar Words

contact
contagious
intact
tact
tactic
taste

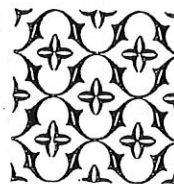
Challenge Word
contingent

TANGO, TANGERE, TETIGI, TACTUM <L. "to touch"

7. **contiguous** (kən tīg'yō əs) [*con* <L. "with"]
adj. Adjoining; sharing a boundary.

The southern border of Virginia is **contiguous** to North Carolina's northern border.

contiguity, *n.*; **contiguously**, *adv.*



8. **tangible** (tǎn'jə bəl)

adj. 1. Perceptible by sense of touch.

Louis Braille developed a system of **tangible** letters by which the blind can read.

2. Clear and definite; real; concrete.

Because only a verbal contract had been made, the firm had no **tangible** evidence that they had been cheated.

tangibleness, *n.*; **tangibility**, *n.*; **tangibly**, *adv.*

9. **tactile** (tǎk'təl, tǎk'tīl)

adj. Pertaining to or using the sense of touch; tangible.

The skin is the largest **tactile** organ of the body.

tactility, *n.*

10. **tangent** (tǎn'jənt)

adj. 1. Touching.

One wall of the house was **tangent** with the house next door.

2. Irrelevant; off the subject.

Although your comment is interesting, I'm afraid it is **tangent** to the topic of our discussion.



n. 1. A straight line that touches the outside of a curve but does not cross it.

For a short distance the highway runs at a **tangent** to the edge of the lake.

2. A sudden change of direction: "to go off on a tangent."

She went off on a surprising **tangent**, leaving business school to become a Buddhist nun.